

Message Text

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /089 W
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R 081150Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8262
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 26044

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FR, XF, JO
SUBJECT: HUSSEIN VISIT TO PARIS, SEPTEMBER 5-6

SUMMARY: GOF FOUND HUSSEIN PESSIMISTIC AND SEEKING
MORAL SUPPORT FOR THE MODERATE POSITION ON A MIDDLE
EAST SETTLEMENT. PARIS CONSIDERS HUSSEIN ANTI-PLO,
AND CONFIDENT THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD REJECT PLO
LEADERSHIP AND RADICALISM IF FREE ELECTIONS COULD BE
HELD ON THE WEST BANK.

1. QUAI NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR CERLES
BRIEFED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 7 REGARDING OFFICIAL VISIT TO
PARIS OF KING HUSSEIN SEPTEMBER 5-6. HE SAID PRESS
COVERAGE ACCURATELY REFLECTED HUSSEIN'S PUBLIC STATE-
MENTS AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (COPIES BEING POUCHED
AMMAN AND NEA/ARN).

2. CERLES SAID THAT IN HIS ROLE AS A LEADING ARAB
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MODERATE, HUSSEIN WAS SEEKING MORAL SUPPORT FROM
FRANCE, CITING THE FAMILIAR POSITION THAT UNLESS THERE
IS MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE BEFORE THE END OF 1977,
SURVIVAL OF MODERATE ARAB LEADERS, ESPECIALLY
SADAT IN EGYPT, WILL BE ENDANGERED. CERLES COMMENTED
THAT, DESPITE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HUSSEIN OBVIOUSLY
CONSIDERS THE PLO TO BE INIMICAL TO THE OBJECTIVES OF

JORDAN AND TO THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL ARABS, INCLUDING
THE PALESTINIANS.

3. CERLES SAID MUCH OF THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS
HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO HUSSEIN'S ESPOUSAL OF PALESTINIAN
SELF-DETERMINATION, WHICH THE FRENCH HAD FIRST RESISTED
AS ENDANGERING ISRAEL. THE FRENCH WERE REASSURED,
HOWEVER, WHEN HUSSEIN ARGUED THAT THE PLO, AND RADICAL
POSITIONS IN GENERAL, WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE WEST
BANK PALESTINIANS IF THEY COULD FREELY CHOOSE NOT ONLY
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES BUT ALSO THE FORM OF THEIR
RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. HUSSEIN'S
THREE STAGE PLAN CALLED FOR, FIRST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL,
THEN A TWO YEAR PERIOD OF UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP,
AND FINALLY FREE ELECTIONS. WHILE EMPHASIZING HIS
CONVICTION THAT PLO LEADER ARAFAT IS STILL SOLIDLY IN
CHARGE, HUSSEIN INDICATED THAT IF THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL
AND EARLY MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE, THE PLO WOULD LOSE OUT
IN SUCH ELECTIONS -- PRESUMABLY TO THE AMMAN-ORIENTED

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WEST BANK NOTABLES, ACCORDING TO CERLES.

4. REGIONAL RE-ORGANIZATION WAS ANOTHER THEME EMPHASIZED BY HUSSEIN, WHO SUGGESTED A TWO LEVEL STRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. FIRST AND FOREMOST, THERE WOULD BE A FEDERATION BETWEEN PALESTINE AND JORDAN. SECONDLY, THERE WOULD BE A CONFEDERATION -- AND CERLES EMPHASIZED THE LESSER IMPORTANCE OF THIS LOOSE STRUCTURE -- LINKING THE JORDAN-PALESTINE FEDERATION WITH SYRIA AND PERHAPS LEBANON.

5. CERLES SAID HUSSEIN HAD ALSO WANTED THE FRENCH TO SPECIFY PRECISELY WHERE THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND WOULD BE PLACED, WHICH CERLES INTERPRETED AS JORDANIAN FEAR LEST THE BLAND PHRASE "PALESTINIAN HOMELAND" BE UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THE EAST BANK RATHER THAN THE WEST
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BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER. IN ANY CASE, THE FRENCH DECLINED TO GO BEYOND THEIR FAMILIAR ENDORSEMENT OF THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO A "PATRIE".

6. CERLES SAID HUSSEIN HAD LAUDED THE MIDDLE EAST POLICIES OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION BUT HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT BE PREVENTED BY CONGRESS FROM IMPLEMENTING HIS POSITIONS. HUSSEIN ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTED NOTHING OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, WHOSE WEST BANK POLICY HE DECRIED. CERLES INTERPRETED HUSSEIN AS REFLECTING A SLOWING OF THE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA.

7. CERLES CONCLUDED THAT HUSSEIN'S OUTLOOK WAS PESSIMISTIC SINCE HE SEES NO EARLY POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE. ALTHOUGH HUSSEIN DEFINED LEBANON AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF HOSTILITIES AND THE WEST BANK AS A CONTINUING SOURCE OF TROUBLE, HUSSEIN INDICATED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST WAR IN VIEW OF THE MASSIVE MILITARY PREPONDERANCE OF ISRAEL. CERLES SUMMED UP BY QUOTING HUSSEIN AS PREDICTING CONTINUED "SOURING" OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
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